

Peters, Jeff

From: Carmen Mendez <carmen@yakima.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 4:54 PM
To: Peters, Jeff
Subject: Public Comments for Yakima Planning Commision.

As Executive Director of SAFE Yakima Valley I am writing to urge the planning commission to take more time to review credible independent research and solicit public input before recommending zoning regulations to the City Council on I 502. Whatever was responsible for the poor turn out of just 5 people at your previous study sessions--your input has been too limited on an issues that is too important to decide without more careful, sober review.

The city council meeting on May 17, 2016 heard testimony from 26 people. I am requesting that the Planning Commission review the YPAC video tape of that testimony (available here <http://205.172.45.10/Cablecast/Public/Show.aspx?ChannelID=2&ShowID=7442>) so you have the fullest picture of how this issue is viewed by those who support and those who oppose the ban. I believe your review of this testimony will allow you to better assess the detrimental impacts of these proposed businesses and better judge the merits of arguments and data on both sides. Also inserted below is a list of those who spoke, a time code for locating their specific testimony, their affiliation and position on the subject. These 26 voices I believe will add enormously valuable input to your deliberations.

When you have finished your review I believe you will discover following:

- Nearly a supermajority of Yakima and Yakima County voted against 502 (58%).
- The majority of those present at the May 17th council meeting (15/26) opposed lifting the ban because of its detrimental impact.
- Proponents of the ban come from a broad cross section of the community including neighbors, business owners, school leaders, child welfare professionals, parents and offered credible evidence on the ill effects based on independent research and professional and personal experience.
- Opponents to the ban were nearly all either employed in the industry (9/11), parents of those employed in the industry (2/11) or no stated name or affiliation (1/11).
- There was not a single business or organization from outside the Marijuana industry that spoke on behalf of lifting the ban.
- Claims by opponents of the ban that "youth use of marijuana has not increased", "there has been a 98% reduction of illegal marijuana arrests" and " a 63% statewide reduction in crime" all since the passage of I502 were either silly or not supported by the facts.
- By their own omission many of the ban opponents were offering their testimony while under the influence marijuana, which provided valuable chance to witness first time the potential impact of increased use of this substance at homed, school or in the workplace.

Again, please take the time to get this right--please postpone deliberations and reopen your study session to better consider the impact this will have on our community. When you recommend regulations I hope it will be as restrictive and conservative as possible.

List of those who spoke, their position and the time code of their testimony.

May 17, 2016 City Council

Time	Name	Reside	Title Affiliation	11 Repeal ban
32:17:00	Kunkler		City Staff	
35:16:00	Adam Markus	Moxee New	Owens two MJ stores in Union Gap	1
38:16:00	Ashley Placant(?)	Yakima	Works a MJ store	1
40:38:00	Ken Pisser		Works in industry	1
43:40:00	Dave Ertle	Yakima	Former	
48:21:00	Mark Hummel	Yakima	School Principal	
51:44:00	Bob Whitney	Yakima	Volunteer Madison House	
58:50:00	Walt Ranta		Former teacher	
1:04:29	Patti Nagle	Yakima	Child Protective Services	
1:08:52	Eric Larson	Yakima	Has worked in Drug treatment	1
1:13:56	Marco and Crystal Compos	Yakima	Parents	
1:19:47	John Lang	Yakima	Parent	
1:22:48	John Bruluant	Yakima-new	Works in industry	1
1:27:15	Jedahi Hayne	Tuckwilla	Works in industry	1
1:32:29	Steve Frank	Seattle	NW HIDTA	
1:41:38	Lenet Whitney	Yakima	Parent	
1:43:40	Glenn Kefield	Yakima		
1:58:15		Selah		1
2:02:26	Anna Marie Default	Moxee	Community Prevention	
2:06:52	Tim Hill	Yakima		1
2:10:26	Rosemary Copeland	Yakima	Parent	
2:12:51	Juan Rodriguez	Yakima	Community Member	1
2:16:15	Jan Lowell	Yakima	Parent of workers	1
2:19:56	Kyle Webster	Yakima	Works in industry	1
2:26:27	Ken Marbel	Yakima	HDI	
2:32:48	Randal Parker	Yakima	Parent/Worked in drug treatment	

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